

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**BA-1006**

**309 Lennox Avenue**

**East Towson, Baltimore County**

**1890-1905**

**Private**

The dwelling at 309 Lennox Avenue was constructed between 1890 and 1905 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. The history of East Towson dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures.

This single-family dwelling fronts south on a level grassy lot with a hedgerow around the front and sides of the property. The two-and-a-half story house has an L-shaped footprint with a projecting front gable roof and is re-clad with vinyl siding. It is three bays wide on the first story with a side passage entrance. The entrance has a single-leaf glass and panel wood door, and a two-light transom. There is a one-story shed-roof porch across the façade. It is supported with turned wood posts with decorative scroll-sawn brackets, and has a continuous wood frame balustrade. The original windows are 2/2 double-hung wood sash and have wood surrounds. There are two stretcher-bond, center interior brick chimneys. A small single light fixed window is found in the front gable. There is a second entrance on the south elevation of the ell. It has a single-leaf wood glass and panel door with a one-light transom and is covered with a wood frame pent roof. The house sits on a solid poured concrete foundation. The boxed cornice is covered with vinyl siding, and the roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA- 1006

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other

### 2. Location

street and number 309 Lennox Avenue not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity

county Baltimore County

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Alistair Paget

street and number 309 Lennox Avenue telephone Not Available

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21286

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 10175 folio 17

city, town Towson tax map 70A tax parcel 491 tax ID number 913142690

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

1

## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA- 1006

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Built between 1890 and 1905, this single-family dwelling, located at 309 Lennox Avenue, fronts south on a level grassy lot with a hedgerow around the front and sides of the property. The two-and-a-half story house has an L-shaped footprint with a projecting front gable roof and is re-clad with vinyl siding. It is three bays wide on the first story with a side passage entrance. The entrance has a single-leaf glass and panel wood door, and a two-light transom. There is a one-story shed-roof porch across the façade. It is supported with turned wood posts with decorative scroll-sawn brackets, and has a continuous wood frame balustrade. The original windows are 2/2 double-hung wood sash and have wood surrounds. There are two stretcher-bond, center interior brick chimneys. A small single light fixed window is found in the front gable. There is a second entrance on the south elevation of the ell. It has a single-leaf wood glass and panel door with a one-light transom and is covered with a wood frame pent roof. The house sits on a solid poured concrete foundation. The boxed cornice is covered with vinyl siding, and the roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA- 1006

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

<b>Specific dates</b>	1890 ca.-present	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	Unknown
<b>Construction dates</b>	1890-1905		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The residence at 309 Lennox Avenue, constructed between 1890 and 1905, is an important contribution to the community of East Towson. East Towson is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the pre-Civil War development of an African-American neighborhood in a predominately white community. The history of this property dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

East Towson as a whole is representative of an important phase of architectural development in Baltimore County, illustrating the dilution of popular architectural styles to more efficiently meet the needs of the neighborhood, and the builders' untrained abilities to execute the fashionable ornamentation. Thus, East Towson provided lower cost housing in a more suburban neighborhood, rather than the urban setting their economic status typically perpetuated.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-1 1006

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.  
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.  
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County*. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.  
*Map of Baltimore County*. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.  
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.  
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys*. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .10 Acre  
Acreage of historical setting Unknown  
Quadrangle name Towson

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The dwelling is located at 309 Lennox Avenue in East Towson in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. It has historically been associated with Tax Map 70A, Parcel 491 since its construction at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	K. Baynard, R. Weidlich, J. Bunting, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	November 5, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



# East Towson: Planimetric Data



Prepared by:  
Baltimore County Office of Planning  
401 Bosley Avenue  
Towson, Maryland 21204  
June, 2001

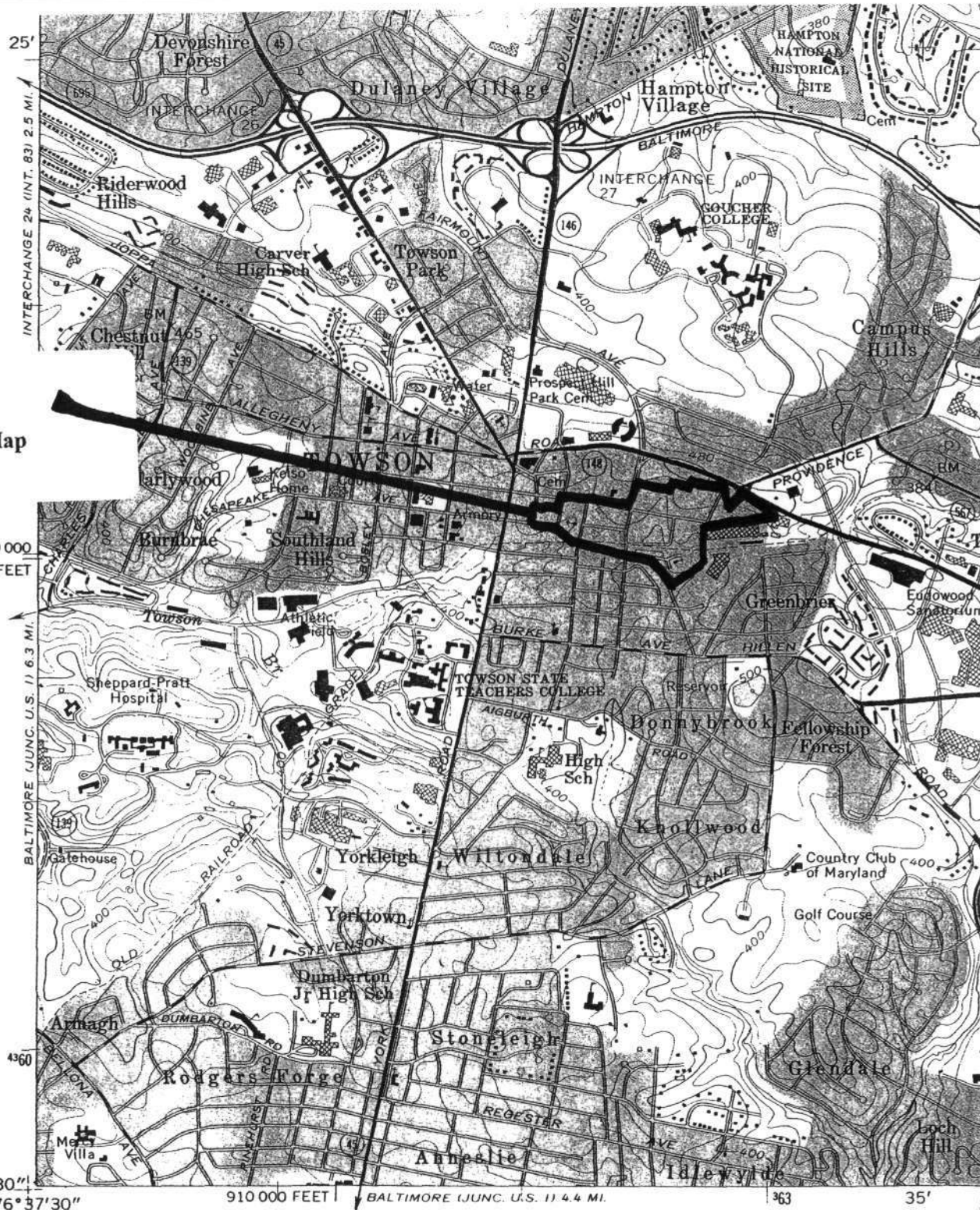


Scale  
1 inch = 200 feet  
1:2400  
100 0 100 200 Feet

Legend

Paved Roads	Study Area Boundary	Hydrographic Features
Unpaved Roads	Buildings	Vegetation
Paved Parking / Driveways		

Data Sources:  
Planimetric Data: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)  
Parcel Boundaries: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)  
Study Area: Baltimore County Office of Planning (1:2400)  
Coordinate System:  
Maryland State Plane: NAD83/91 Horizontal Datum  
Elevations in Feet: NAVD88 Vertical Datum  
Date of Data Capture: March 1996  
Scale of Data Capture: 1" = 100'



BA-1006  
 East Towson  
 Towson, Maryland  
 Towson USGS Quad Map  
 Baltimore County

(BALTIMORE WEST)  
 5662 / SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service  
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland  
 Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps

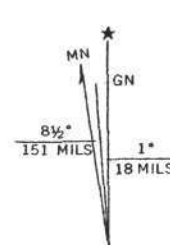
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs  
 taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944  
 Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system  
 1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only  
 landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from  
 aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not  
 field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH  
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET





BA-1006

HOUSE, 309 LENNOX AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD-SHPD

SOUTH ELEVATION, VIEW LOOKING NORTHEAST.

1 of 3

TRACERIES, 10/2001



BA-1006

HOUSE, 309 LENNOX AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD-SHPD

SOUTHEAST CORNER, VIEW LOOKING NORTHWEST

2 of 3

TRACERIES, 10/2001



BA-1006

HOUSE, 309 LENNOX AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD-SHPD

VIEW LOOKING SOUTH NORTH ELEVATION

3 of 3

TRACERIES, 10/2001



## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA-1006

MAGI #0310065704

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Taylor House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

309 Lennox Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Phebia McNair Taylor

Telephone #: 825-4490

STREET &amp; NUMBER

309 Lennox Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

Maryland 21204

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Bldg. (Towson)

Liber #: 5174

Folio #: 98

STREET &amp; NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

D/

BA-1006 - 309 Lennox

c. 1905 - 1915

DI

SI

CI

This two-story shaped house features a semi-enclosed porch, typical of the neighborhood, along its main facade.

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

**309 Lennox**

A north-south gable from the front meets an east-west gable at the rear to form this L-shaped house. The front section has a large room on the west and a stair hall on the east. The rear section contains a kitchen on the east and a dining room on the west.

This two-story frame house is sheathed in white asbestos shingles. The 2/2 windows have louvered shutters. The front porch is enclosed to waist height, and supported by turned posts and carved brackets. The front door has a 2-pane transom. A small window lights the south attic. A stone cellar is entered from the exterior along the north wall.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lot purchased from John Yellot - 1907.

The earliest record of ownership indicates that Martha Davage purchased the property (house) from Howard Issac on November 19, 1908. Milton Davage conveyed the property to Elmer Haile, Real Estate speculator in 1928. Elmer Haile conveyed the property to his son Leroy Haile and wife in 1945. Leroy Haile sold the property to John and Anna Smith on May 16, 1945. John and Anna Smith conveyed the property to Edward McNair and Phebia McNair on July 7, 1960. Phebia Taylor McNair is presently the owner of the property.

Taylor, Phebia McNair - 309 Lennox Ave. Lot #5 5174-98  
3-22-71

Phebia Taylor and Albert Taylor - William Jacob 7-7-60  
WJR # 3722 Folio 497 - John W. and Anna Smith to Edward  
McNair and Phebia McNair 5-16-1945

RJS #1388 Folio 141 Leroy Haile and Wife, John and Anna  
Smith 2-8-45

RJS #1378 Folio 108 Elmer R. Haile to Grantor

RJS #1314 Folio 583 Milton B. Davage, Elmer M. Haile  
11-19-1908

WPC #334 Folio 585 Howard Issac Att. to Martha Davage

Land Records Baltimore County Liber Folio 334:585  
1314:583  
1378:108  
1388:141  
3722:497  
5174:98

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Marcus Pollock; M. Stinson, architect

ORGANIZATION

Committee to Save East Towson

DATE

6/30/77

STREET &amp; NUMBER

600 W. Chesapeake Avenue

TELEPHONE

823-8870

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438





BA-1006

Taylor House

309 Lennox

Towson, Md.

South

Merry Stinson

1977